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FORT WAYNE, IND.
NEWS-SENTINEL

E - 77,258

MAR 2 1967

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Professor Accused Of CIA Role Gave Talks in This City

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Charges of "espionage" leveled against I. U. Prof. Robert F. Byrnes by Pravda spark recollections of talks made by the history professor here which indicated his thinking regarding communism and its potential threat to the United States.

Pravda Wednesday charged that Dr. Byrnes co-operated with the Central Intelligence Agency in "the dirty cause of espionage," a charge which the 49-year-old history professor terms "vicious and irresponsible."

He indicated Wednesday eve-



Dr. Robert Byrnes

ning it is "very possible" the Inter-University Committee on Travel and Grants, a student exchange program which he heads, may halt arranging travel for U. S. students and professors in Iron Curtain countries.

According to a United Press International story, Dr. Byrnes once served as an analyst for the CIA.

Byrnes says the Inter-University Committee has no ties with the CIA, never received funds from it, nor does it furnish information to the CIA. He said financial support is furnished the committee by the Ford Foundation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and member universities.

IN ITS CHARGE, Pravda said Byrnes was in Moscow last month serving as a part of 'CIA's American exchange student program . . .'. The news agency claims he "succeeded in causing nervousness among the group of American participants, seeding suspicion and distrust for Soviet people among them."

Dr. Byrnes revealed his thinking on communism in two programs in Fort Wayne, one last Dec. 2-3 at the Regional Campus during a seminar on "U.S.

Foreign Policy and the Challenge of Communism" and the other in November, 1961, when he spoke at a World Fellowship dinner meeting at the YWCA.

At the 1961 program Dr. Byrnes directed his comments toward Communism and Communists in the United States, and referred to Communists in this country as "only unintelligent bums."

HE NOTED "the Communist problem in the United States is a myth," and emphasized "any American who worries about (only) 10,000 Communists in the U.S. is crazy!"

His remarks at that time were criticized as being "naive" by persons who commented on his talk through letters to the editor of The News-Sentinel.

Dr. Byrnes' remarks at the seminar at the I. U.-Purdue Regional Campus last fall impressed at least one listener, however, as an indication of "clear, knowledgeable and, possibly conservatively - tinged" thinking concerning Communist activity.

The seminar was attended by local business and government leaders. It was a closed meeting, although members of the news media were in attendance.

THE ACCUSATIONS of Pravda were considered by that agency a followup to recent "exposes" in the U.S. of certain American student activities abroad being financed by the CIA.

Dr. Byrnes stated all applicants to the committee are advised immediately that they are to have no contact with any intelligence organization. "Those interviewed are warned clearly and explicitly about this," he noted.

Also named in the Soviet charges for connection with the Committee and Indiana University were Prof. Albert Todd, formerly an I.U. faculty member, now of Queens College, N. Y., and a man named "Kennan" of I. U. whom Pravda said was working in Russia for the CIA. The university denies any knowledge of a "Prof. Kennan."